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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, June 5, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 31 totaled an estimated 15.9 billion ton-miles, 4.8 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. Both weeks included the Memorial Day holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 22 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 385 billion ton-miles, 4.2 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 31 totaled 392,222 cars, 11.3 percent below 1979, and 10.8 percent lower than the preceding non-holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 17.2 percent in the East, 5.2 percent in the South, and 10.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 20 of the 21 commodity groups declined with only coal loadings, up 8.7 percent, showing an increase. Nineteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding non-holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 24 totaled 31,680 cars, down 14.7 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 57,741 trailers and/or containers, 11.2 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 21 weeks of the year was 695,007 cars, 7.2 percent lower than last year, and 1,261,548 trailers and/or containers, down 4.9 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/31/80.

| | Loadings in Week ended May 31, 1980 | | Change from Corresponding Week 1979 | | | Change from Preceding Week | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cars | | Cars | Percent | | Cars | Percent | |
| Grain | 19,794 | D | 5,848 | 22.8 | D | 4,310 | 17.9 | |
| Other farm products | 4,068 | D | 134 | 3.2 | D | 746 | 15.5 | |
| Metallic ores | 32,399 | D | 7,921 | 19.6 | D | 4,908 | 13.2 | |
| Coal | 102,306 | I | 8,194 | 8.7 | D | 14,140 | 12.1 | |
| Crushed stone, gravel and sand | 13,547 | D | 3,532 | 20.7 | D | 2,108 | 13.5 | |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 14,004 | D | 965 | 6.4 | I | 43 | 0.3 | |
| Grain mill products | 15,071 | D | 776 | 4.9 | D | 1,007 | 6.3 | |
| Food and kindred products | 16,558 | D | 28 | 0.2 | D | 1,667 | 9.1 | |
| Primary forest products | 18,535 | D | 176 | 0.9 | I | 163 | 0.9 | |
| Lumber and wood products except furniture | 8,051 | D | 2,396 | 22.9 | D | 719 | 8.2 | |
| Pulp, paper and allied products | 20,277 | D | 422 | 2.0 | D | 761 | 3.6 | |
| Chemicals and allied products | 22,782 | D | 2,940 | 11.4 | D | 2,351 | 9.4 | |
| Petroleum products | 4,962 | D | 897 | 15.3 | D | 577 | 10.4 | |
| Stone, clay and glass products | 13,347 | D | 4,768 | 26.3 | D | 1,444 | 9.8 | |
| Coke | 5,022 | D | 2,452 | 32.8 | D | 286 | 5.4 | |
| Metals and products | 14,379 | D | 6,000 | 29.4 | D | 1,693 | 10.5 | |
| Motor vehicles and equipment | 14,012 | D | 8,137 | 36.7 | D | 814 | 5.5 | |
| Waste and scrap materials | 9,961 | D | 2,287 | 18.7 | D | 1,792 | 15.2 | |
| Forwarder and shipper association traffic | 8,498 | D | 2,088 | 19.7 | D | 1,761 | 17.2 | |
| All other carloads | 34,496 | D | 6,070 | 15.0 | D | 6,674 | 16.2 | |
| LCL traffic | 153 | D | 167 | 52.2 | D | 39 | 20.3 | |
| Total Cars Loaded | 392,222 | D | 49,810 | 11.3 | D | 47,591 | 10.8 | |
| Corresponding week of 1979 | 442,032 | | | | | | | |

| | 1980 | 1979 | % | Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Cars Loaded (22 weeks) | 9,683,640 | 9,850,545 | D | 1.7 |
| Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions): | | | | |
| 21 weeks cumulative | 369.2 | 352.8 | I | 4.6 |
| Week ended May 31 | 15.9 | 16.8 | D | 4.8 |
| 22 weeks cumulative | 385.1 | 369.5 | I | 4.2 |

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